

working on the next version of the act. This is a collaborative effort. We are listening closely to those on the front lines—police, trial judges, emergency room nurses and many others—and making targeted improvements to existing grant programs and tightening up criminal laws. We are learning about the new challenges and the persistent problems of old. Frankly, there are still far too many women and their children vulnerable to cowardly abusers. As such, the new act may include heightened penalties for repeat Federal domestic violence offenders, and update the Federal stalking statute to incorporate new technologies that can terrorize women.

This past spring, I was in my home State at an event honoring the winners of our high school poster contest. To enter this first-ever "Teens Against Sexual Assault" contest, any Delaware high school student could submit a poster that somehow visually depicted the message "no means no." The two young winners were quite shy, but they both joined me at the podium in front of 200 people. They stunned the audience, admitting that they both had been victims of rape and hoped that through their efforts they could help other young women find the courage to report their attacker and seek help. As I listened to these courageous young women, I was reminded of the essential purpose of the Violence Against Women Act. We simply can't stop now.

Prior to the enactment of the 1994 crime bill, many doubted that the Federal Government could have a measurable impact on crime in the United States. Programs such as COPS and VAWA proved the critics wrong. COPS and VAWA have made Americans safer and changed fundamental societal attitudes about domestic violence and sexual assault.

In this new age of terrorism, we simply cannot lose site of traditional crimes in our neighborhoods and homes. While the threat of terrorism is very real, the likelihood of becoming a victim of a "traditional" crime is exponentially far greater than becoming a victim of a terrorist attack. Last year, there were over one million incidents of violent crime and over 16,000 murders reported to the police. If we are going to continue to progress and make this country safer, we must continue to invest in the programs that have proven successful, and during the last few weeks of this legislative session, I hope Congress and President Bush will do just that.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST DUSTIN S. COLBY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to SP Dustin S. Colby, a fellow Iowan from the Mason City/Clear Lake area. The Iowa National Guard regrettably announced the death of Specialist Colby when he was killed on August 27, 2004, along with fellow soldier SSG Bruce J. Pollema,

when their military motor vehicle rolled over into a ditch near Camp Dodge. Specialist Dustin Colby was a member of the 2168th Transportation Company based in Sheldon, IA. SP Colby is survived by his mother, Misty L. Thoe, and his father, Jerry L. Colby, as well as numerous siblings. This brave young soldier was only 20 years old.

The family of Dustin Colby issued the following statement in response to the news of their son's death:

Dustin was a dedicated son, grandson, brother, cousin, nephew, boyfriend, friend and Soldier. He loved life, his family, and being a soldier.

My deepest sympathy goes out to his family and friends. Specialist Colby brought happiness to many people, and his memory will never die because of the impact he had on the people he knew. It is fitting that we pay tribute to his life and his service to his country.

SGT. JAMES DANIEL FAULKNER

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude I honor the life of a brave young man who grew up in Clarksville, IN. Sgt. James Daniel Faulkner, 23 years old, died on September 8 when the armored personnel carrier he was driving at the head of a convoy was struck by enemy fire in Baghdad. With his entire life before him, James chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

James graduated from Clarksville High School in 1999. He attended Indiana University Southeast for 1 year before deciding that he wanted to seek different opportunities. Shortly thereafter James, along with a longtime friend from high school, joined the Army in November of 2000. James was a combat engineer who served his country with pride. He was assigned to the 1st Cavalry's 20th Engineer Battalion, based in Fort Hood, TX. Just a few weeks ago, James visited with his family for the last time while on leave before returning to Iraq to fulfill his tour of duty, which started in March of this year.

James was the 34th Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This brave young soldier leaves behind his fiancée, Lisa Moreno, whom he was set to marry in July; his mother, Pam Gilkey; his father, James Faulkner; his stepfather; his three sisters; and his two brothers.

Today, I join James' family, his friends and all Americans in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this tremendous loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of James, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

According to Clarksville High School's director of counseling Pat

Hunt, James had enjoyed athletics and was a strong student. James starred on the track and cross-country teams and was a member of the National Honor Society. He was known by all for his dedicated spirit and his love of country. His mother, Pam, recounted a conversation she had with her son to the Louisville Courier-Journal, remembering when she questioned her son's reasons for his recent re-enlistment. She said James replied by simply saying he was "proud to serve his country."

As I search for words to do justice in honoring James' sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of James' actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of James Daniel Faulkner in the official record of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like James' can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with James.

OUT OF TIME

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in a matter of hours, the assault weapons ban will expire. That moment will mark a turning point—to the wrong direction—in our effort to reduce gun violence. Criminals, and potentially terrorists, will once again have easy access to 19 of the highest powered and most lethal firearms produced. I am disappointed that, despite broad bipartisan support for the ban, the Republican congressional leadership opposes it and President Bush has done little or nothing to support this important legislation.

At midnight tonight, 19 currently banned assault weapons will become legal once again, as well as firearms that can accept detachable magazines and have more than one of several specific military features, such as a folding/telescoping stock, protruding pistol grip, bayonet mount, threaded muzzle or flash suppressor, barrel shroud or grenade launcher. Common sense tells us that there is no reason for civilians